FCHS HONOR CODE PLEDGE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK: \_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**POSTCARDS FROM THE ENGLISH COLONIES– R.A.F.T. WRITING ACTIVITY**

Colonial America consisted of at least five different types of English settlements. Many were so committed to diversity that English was not even the most common language. The colonies were isolated, filled with disease, inhabited by hostile Native Americans and rival European armies, and constantly facing existential threats. Why, then, did people come to Colonial America? Why did they work so hard to develop communities in an unforgiving environment – and risk both their lives and their property in the process? Did they ever regret their decision to migrate to New World? These are the questions we would like for you to think about in this activity.

The directions are as follows. You will be completing a **R.A.F.T.** activity to demonstrate your knowledge of what motivated colonists to risk all and populate North America. What is a **R.A.F.T.**? Here’s a graphic to help you understand:

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| R. | Role | The role you take on in this writing activity is the perspective from which you will write. If the role you were assigned to represent was that of an indentured servant in the Carolinas, then everything you state in your writing should be representative of an indentured servant’s dispositions and beliefs. |
| A. | Audience | Your audience is the person or people to whom you are writing. The audience of an e-mail would be the recipient of the e-mail. If you are writing a newspaper article in the sports section of the *Virginian-Pilot*, then your audience would be local sports fans. In some cases, an audience can be very small and focused – a love note, for example! But in other cases, what you write is for many people to read – like speech by a politician. In this case, you will be writing to a potential immigrant – someone considering making the move to Colonial America. |
| F. | Format | The format is the particular type of writing that you will be engaged in. A text message is a very specific form of writing – 160 characters, including spaces. A sonnet in English poetry has similar restrictions – usually it is 14 lines in iambic pentameter. Fortunately, not everything is so complicated. A format might be a newspaper article, a blog entry, or a business letter. In this case, we will be creating a simple and concise document: a post card. |
| T. | Topic | The topic of your writing should always be on your mind when you are composing. What are you trying to say? What is the *purpose of writing* from this particular role – to this particular audience – in this particular format? The topic of writing can be virtually anything! In this case, though, there is some very specific information you will need to convey to your particular audience. |

**THE ASSIGNMENT**.

You are living Colonial America in the year 1735. Send a **postcard** to a person or group considering migration to Colonial America. In your post card, be sure to describe the possibilities offered in the particular colony you live in, your own potential for prosperity and happiness, the difficulties you have encountered in the New World, and a recommendation to the recipient of the post card about which particular English colony they would be best off relocating to. You should provide the most specific information you can to the reader – in a short amount of space. Use an 8 ½ by 11 sheet of paper. **In the “letter” portion of your post card, you must include answers to the following questions:**

1. What experiences did you have in your colony, which perhaps they should

be prepared for?

2. What obstacles might they encounter in the New World?

3. How have other people like the recipient of your postcard faired in the

Colonies?

4. Which of the English colonies would you recommend they resettle in ?

Provide at least two (2) reasons they should choose that colony to live in.

5. Which colony should the recipient of your post card avoid at all costs,

because it is dangerous there? Provide at least one (1) reason they should

not settle there under any circumstances.

**Your postcard must include all of the following information:**

* The address of the recipient – make one up!
* The date (sometime in the year 1735).
* A stamp, representative of the era. *Be creative*. Religion, Exploration, and Native American cultures may be worthwhile possibilities.
* A picture, one component of which ***you drew yourself*** of the English Colonies. This will count for 12% of your grade. If you have only a printout, you will not receive credit for this portion of the assignment.
* A letter satisfying the requirements above *in at least 200 but no more than 375 words*! (This total does not count the address and labels.)



**Indigo**

My Dear Sister Melissa: I’m writing to let you know about what I have experienced in South Carolina since I arrived here as an indentured servant three years ago. The work has been absolutely brutal, and I have been subjected to both disease and abuses since I arrived….

Don’t sign any contracts to come to South Carolina! Avoid the Chesapeake region and the Lower South if possible; yellow fever and malaria both plague the region from summer until the first frost. You will be much safer in New England, and more likely to find a good husband.

Your loving brother, Adam

STAMP

ADDRESS

**Diversity in America R.A.F.T.**

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| **R. ROLE** | **A. AUDIENCE** | **F. FORMAT** | **T. TOPIC** |
| A farmer and a devout member of the Puritan community in Massachusetts Bay Colony. | A devout Puritan in Shrewsville, England, who is considering immigrating to New England. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |
| A dockworker and member of the community of dissenters established by Roger Williams in Providence, Rhode Island. | A Dutchman who works as a deckhand on a trade vessel that makes voyages from Amsterdam, Holland. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |
| A merchant in New York City, in the colony of New York, who sells goods imported from Europe and the Caribbean Islands. | A cousin, living in an overcrowded part of Scotland, which England has recently conquered. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |
| A member of the Quaker Society of Friends in Pennsylvania who presently lives on the western frontier of the colony. | The membership of a Quaker Society of Friends meeting house in Frankfurt, Germany. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |
| An indentured servant on a tobacco plantation outside of Baltimore, Maryland. This person is a member of the Catholic Church. | Your younger brother and sister, who live in an orphanage in Manchester, England and are unemployed. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |
| A free black – formerly enslaved, who was taught to read and write by a sympathetic master – who lives on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. | A group of German Protestants who are seeking religious freedom and committed to abolitionism. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |

**Diversity in America R.A.F.T.**

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| **R. ROLE** | **A. AUDIENCE** | **F. FORMAT** | **T. TOPIC** |
| A plantation owner in South Carolina, whose principle crop for export is rice. He is a member of the Anglican Church, and a slaveholder. | A younger brother who owns no land, but works on a farm in the Irish countryside. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |
| A wife of a plantation owner in the South Carolina, who is devoted to the cultivation of indigo. She owns slaves, and lives in a colony where the majority of people are slaves. | An older sister, widowed with two children, who lives in London, where disease is rampant and wages are low. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |
| A debtor who has been sent to Georgia to help create a buffer colony there. No alcohol is permitted in the colony, and slavery is illegal. | Prisoners in York, England, who are considering accepting an offer to relocate to the Georgia. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |
| A Native American living in a “Praying Town” in Connecticut. Only Indians who convert to Christianity can live in the community. | A group of Scots-Irish traders who are considering moving into the backcountry to engage in trade. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |
| An English plantation owner, living on the island of Jamaica and running a sugar cane plantation that uses slave labor to produce raw cane sugar, molasses, and rum. | The owner of a dry goods store in England who’s considering moving his business to Plymouth, Mass. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |
| A German immigrant and member of the Moravian Church who has settled in the North Carolina backcountry and is practicing subsistence agriculture. | A poor servant girl who is considering signing an indentured servant’s contract in Williamsburg, Virginia. | Postcard | *Write a postcard to your specific audience describing your experiences in the New World – wherever you live – and giving him or her advice as to where they should choose to settle in the English Colonies.* |